

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ( ISO ) W  
----- 124498

R 291402Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5649

AMCONSUL ASMARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 9096

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PFOR ET

SUBJECT: CISCO TWO

REF: ADDIS 9047

1. I TOOK OPPORTUNITY OF DISCUSSION WITH DEFMIN AYALEW TODAY TO  
RAISE ASMARA ABDUCTION.

2. AYALEW SAID CIRCUMSTANCES OF DEPARTURE OF CISCO TWO WERE  
CAUSING EPMG TO RECONSIDER SITUATION. THERE WERE INDICATIONS THAT  
DEPARTURE HAD BEEN PRE-PLANNED BY ABDUCTEES, AND HE CITED TAKING OF  
C-RATIONS AND TOOLS AS DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN IN SIMPLE ABDUCTION.  
HE SAID EPMG WAS USING ITS INTELLIGENCE ASSETS, AS WELL AS QUESTION-  
ING A CONTINUING FLOW OF DEFECTORS FROM ELF TO GOVT SIDE, TO ASCER-  
TAIN WHEREABOUTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF CISCO TWO, BUT HAD NOT GOTTEN  
ANY WORD AS YET. I SAID I HAD HEARD OF SIMILAR SPECULATIONS AMONG  
ETHIOPIANS AS REPORTED BY OUR CONGEN ASMARA, BUT THAT WE HAVE NO  
CONFIRMATION OF ANY OF THEM. MEANWHILE WE ARE VERY ANXIOUS TO GET  
ANY INFORMATION THAT IS AVAILABLE ABOUT WELFARE-WHEREABOUTS.

3. I SAID THAT WE HAD ON FRIDAY PASSED THROUGH MOFA TWO  
SIMPLE MESSAGES FROM FAMILIES OF ABDUCTEES MERELY WISHING THEM WELL  
AND ASKING THEM TO COMMUNICATE IF POSSIBLE. WE HAD ASKED THAT  
THESE BE BROADCAST OVER ETHIOPIAN RADIO, BUT HAD BEEN TOLD  
YESTERDAY THAT EPMG BELIEVED THE TIME "INOPPORTUNE." THIS WAS  
DISTURBING, AND WE WERE TRYING TO FIND OUT WHAT EPMG MEANT.

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AYALEW SAID HE DID NOT KNOW, AND ADDED, "WHY DON'T YOU BROADCAST

THEM OVER VOA?" I ASKED IF THIS WAS OFFICIAL EPMG POSITION, AND HE ADMITTED IT WAS NOT. I THEN EXPRESSED DISSATISFACTION THAT ORIGINAL EPMG STATEMENT JULY 18 ON ABDUCTION HAD DRAGGED IN A REMARK ABOUT KAGNEW STATION BEING IN ITS LAST STAGES. THIS PART OF CONVERSATION ON FUTURE OF KAGNEW BEING REPORTED SEPTEL.

4. COMMENT: IT SEEMS THAT EPMG IS REASSESSING ITS POSITION IN LIGHT OF ITS SUSPICIONS THAT CISCO TWO MAY HAVE LEFT VOLUNTARILY TO WORK WITH ELF OR PLF. WE DOUBT THAT EPMG WILL GIVE ORDER FOR FAMILY MESSAGES TO BE BROADCAST, AT LEAST UNTIL IT HAS SORTED OUT EPMG VIEWS AND IMPLICATIONS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO REQUEST ELUCIDATION FROM EPMG OF WHY TIMING IS "INOPPORTUNE." WE WOULD WELCOME GUIDANCE ON HOW HARD DEPT WANTS US TO PUSH THIS AT PRESENT, AND WHETHER WE SHOULD SEEK EPMG AGREEMENT FOR STATEMENTS TO BE BROADCAST OVER VOA.

HUMMEL

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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